SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 21 JUNE 2020

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by ..... [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans as well as in English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio and text bulletins may be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za. To join the bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

THE 2020 SARL TOP BAND QSO PARTY ENDS TOMORROW

WHAT IS THE IARU VIDEO?

and

40 MHZ (8 METRES) ACTIVITY IN EUROPE

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

The SARL News Team wishes all the Fathers a special Father's Day today!

THE 2020 SARL TOP BAND QSO PARTY ENDS TOMORROW

The Top Band QSO Party ends at 00:00 UTC on Monday 22 June, so use the last few hours to get those QSOs for the SARL Top Band Certificate and increase the number of grid squares you have worked on 160 meters. It is a CW and phone party, and the exchange is an RS or RST report and your provincial or country abbreviation. Submit your log by 29 June 2020 by e-mail to contest@sarl.org.za.

WHAT IS THE IARU VIDEO?

The video 'What is IARU?' is now available on the IARU Region 2 website. IARU Region 2 says, "This video explains the mission and roles of IARU to represent, develop and defend frequencies for amateur radio around the world. It also explains the regional organizations and the critical roles of its 160+ Member Societies."

The English language presentation was developed by the IARU Administrative Committee and approved in Lima in October 2019. The translation to Spanish and both 3-minute videos were produced by Carlos Beviglia, LU1BCE (Region 2 Area G Director) and Fernando Gomez Rojas, LU1ARG. These videos are available in MP4 format at the link below in both English and Spanish.

Member Societies and radio clubs are encouraged to use these videos to explain the role and mission of the IARU to amateurs, regulators and any other interested parties. Watch the video at https://www.iaru-r2.org/en/reference/resources-for-member-societies/what-is-iaru/

THE 2020 IARU HF CHAMPIONSHIPS

The aim of the IARU HF Championships is to contact as many other amateurs, especially IARU Member Society HQ stations, around the world as possible using the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metre bands, and using phone and CW. The Contest runs from 12:00 UTC on Saturday 11 July to 11:59 UTC on Sunday 12 July and both Single and Multi-operator stations may operate the entire 24-hour period.

IARU Member Society HQ stations, such as ZS95SARL, send a signal report and official IARU Member Society abbreviation as listed on the IARU website at www.iaru.org/member-societies.html. The IARU International Secretariat club station NU1AW counts as a HQ station and sends "IARU." Members of the IARU Administrative Council, and the three IARU Regional Executive Committees, send "AC," "R1," "R2," and "R3" respectively. All other operators send a signal report and their ITU zone; for South Africa that is ITU Zone 57. A complete exchange must be logged for each valid QSO. The logs must be submitted by 12:00 UTC on Friday 17 July 2020.

Team SARL is looking for operators for ZS95SARL on 11 and 12 July. Please contact Geoff, ZS6C at contest@sarl.org.za to book a band/mode time slot for the contest. You will find the rules at www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship

THE 2020 INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND

The 2020 ILLW event will take place over the weekend of 22 and 23 August, a week later than usual to avoid conflicting with special events that may be on the air to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the cessation of World War II hostilities in the Pacific. Visit https://illw.net/ to register your lighthouse for this event; there are 48 odd lighthouses along the coast to activate.

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

40 MHZ (8 METRES) ACTIVITY IN EUROPE

Earlier in the month of June, the first contact on the new 40 MHz or 8 metre band between Slovenia and Lithuania was made. This has now been quickly followed by the first 40 MHz contact between Slovenia and Ireland.

On Monday 15 June 2020, S50B in Slovenia managed to contact EI4GNB near Dublin, Ireland for another first on the 8 metre band. This now means that all three European countries active on the band have managed to work each other

in 2020. The Sporadic-E contact between S50B and EI4GNB was completed on the FT8, FT4 and JT65 digital modes as well as on SSB where 5/5 reports were exchanged both ways. The distance was just under 1 660 km.

It is now hoped that more radio amateurs in other countries will try to get permission to operate on 40 MHz from their respective licensing authority. South Africa has an allocation from 40,675 to 40,685 MHz with 10 W ERP for ZR and ZS licence holders.

You can read the full report at
https://ei7gl.blogspot.com/2020/06/first-contact-between-ireland-slovenia.html

AMATEUR RADIO DISCUSSED AT CEPT MEETING

The International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 reports the 96th virtual meeting of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) Frequency Management Working Group (FMWG) took place from 8 to 12 June and dealt with several amateur radio matters.

The European Common Allocation Table (ECA) was reviewed, resulting in a revised version for consultation with stakeholders. The IARU was able to amend the 241 - 250 GHz band entry to correct some errors. The state of the 50 - 52 MHz band in CEPT countries was also updated to take WRC-19 decisions into account. Last year, Ukraine requested that it be included in CEPT ECC Recommendation T/R 61-02, the recommendation that defines the Harmonized Amateur Radio Examination Certificate (HAREC) and this was agreed.

Romania had contacted the FMWG chairman concerning the possibility of introducing electronic amateur radio licensing. This idea has been passed to CEPT's Radio Amateur Forum Group for further discussion and possible action.

The meeting also discussed developing a regulatory framework for wireless power transfer (WPT) going forward and attendees agreed that the CEPT Spectrum Engineering Working Group should continue to study the full range of WPT applications and emissions, and that no regulatory steps would be taken until that work is complete.

RUSSIAN/UKRAINIAN RADIO WAR SPREADS

Tom, DF5JL, from DARC and Region 1 HF Manager, reports that the Russian/Ukrainian radio war on 7 055 kHz (LSB) has reached a new level - recently, frequency changes to 7 050 and 7 060 kHz LSB were reported several times. Should this frequency change ever take place on 7 080 kHz LSB, the entire FT8 traffic on 7 074 kHz USB would be hugely affected, at least in Central Europe, reports Daniel Moeller, DL3RTL, head of the DARC Monitoring System, in the July issue of CQ-DL. One day before the magazine was published, this radio war, which had been raging for years, took place on 7 055 and 7 100 kHz all evening.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to remain at low levels. There are currently no sunspot regions visible. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around one. The 20 to 30 m bands may, especially around sunrise and sunset, provide some DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

Finally, a Diary of some upcoming events:

Until 00:00 UTC 22 June – the SARL Top Band QSO party

30 June – World Asteroid Day

4 July – the SARL Newbie Party

5 July – the ZS5 Sprint

11 July – the RaDAR Challenge

11 and 12 July – the IARU HF Championships

15 July – the SARL Wednesday 80 m Club Sprint

To conclude our bulletin, a quick overview of our main news item:

The Top Band QSO Party ends at 00:00 UTC on Monday 22 June, so use the last few hours to get those QSOs for the SARL Top Band Certificate and increase the number of grid squares you have worked on 160 meters. It is a CW and phone party, and the exchange is an RS or RST report and your provincial or country abbreviation. Submit your log by 29 June 2020 by e-mail to contest@sarl.org.za.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to include in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio program, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 Central African Time. The program can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower sideband. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 Central African Time on 3 620 kHz. We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Dennis Green, ZS4BS, edited by Dave Reece, ZS1DFR and read by .....

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.